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-1-

I woke up. Mom's not here... again. I grunt.

-2-

She hasn't returned for a while. Cats are gathering in the clearing.
"Should I go out?" I murmur.

-3-

I slowly leave the den. It's cold. Where are you, Mom?

-4-

I give up on finding Mom. I go back into the den.

-5-

I'm tired, but I can't fall asleep. My litter mates woke up.

-6-

"Come on, Silverkit!" Beetlekit calls to me. I don't like your personality or looks, but ok.

-7-

I come outside to see my other littermate, Leafkit. He's ok. Beetlekit isn't. She's horrible.

-8-

"We're playing fox chase!" Beetlekit announced proudly. I force back a hiss. Her voice... so annoying. Her attention... so dumb. I don't envy her. I just hate her.

-8-

"Silverkit, you're obviously the fox." Beetlekit mews. I want to claw her ears off, but I nod. I start to run in circles, yowling like a weird cat.

-9-

Leafkit leaps at me.

-10-

I move to the side, making him land beside me.

-11-

Beetlekit lunges at me while Leafkit regains balance.

-12-

I lean onto my hindquarters, my forepaws stretched out, ready to defend myself.

-13-

I bat at Beetlekit, making her squeal with surprise. She tumbles backwards.

-14-

Leafkit knocks me over.

-15-

I bat at him before throwing him off.

-16-

I go back on my paws.

-17-

"This is boring," Beetlekit complained. She always complains. She always acts like the leader.

-18-

A moon passes.

-19-

I grow. Leafkit grows. Beetlekit seems to shrink.

-20-

Beetlekit seems to be weaker, too. It's leaf-bare, so who blames her?

-21-

I wake up. Mom has prey.

-22-

"Here, kits, eat." She mewed. I knew she was probably begging Beetlekit to eat most, though.

-23-

Beetlekit wheezes before taking a bite from the squirrel.

-24-

I know Beetlekit is sick. I stay away from her. Mom chooses not to believe it and show it to our medicine cat, Clearleaf.

-25-

I hungrily tear at the squirrel's stomach, eating quickly. I eat a lot. I back away, licking my licks and cleaning off my bloody snout with my paw.

-26-

Mom walks out of the den. "Leafkit! Foxkit! Follow me."

-27-

I glance at Beetlekit. I follow Mom out of the den.

-28-

Mom leaves us in the elders den. "You stay here. Clearleaf will deal with Beetlekit." Mom mewed. I frowned. Beetlekit might actually *die*. Why was I sad about it?

-29-

I sigh. I wait.

-30-

I wait longer.

-31-

A day passes.

-32-

I see Beetlekit again. She's no longer breathing heavily or coughing.

-33-

"She's all good," Mom purrs. "Now you can play again!"

-34-

Beetlekit scowls. "Let's play mossball!" She declared. I fill with rage.

-35-

"No!" I find myself screaming. I continue. "I'm sick of you acting like you're the boss, and being so annoying!"

-36-

Mom stares at me, but doesn't do anything. "What about hide and seek? Leafkit, do you wanna play it?" I ask. Leafkit nodded. He was still shocked.

-37-

We play hide and seek. Beetlekit doesn't complain.

-38-

One moon passes.

-39-

Two moons pass.

-40-

We're being made apprentices in a few days. Beetlekit got a bit bigger, but Leafkit and I where still larger than her. Beetlekit has gone back to normal, though. She was still bossy, sassy, annoying, and rude.

-41-

"Aren't you excited, Tawnyswipe?" Birdfeather asks Mom. Mom nods. "Yes, I can't wait to see my kits grow up!" Her eyes shine with excitement. I feel warmth inside of me.

-42-

I then feel sad. Mom hasn't told us who our father was. No cat did. It seemed like Mom only knew, and the other cats just have no idea.

-43-

Two sunrises pass.

-44-

My apprentice ceremony is today.

-45-

Mom grooms my short spiky fur.

-46-

"I'm so excited!" Beetlekit mews. Leafkit looks confused. "How?" Beetlekit doesn't respond once Mom goes to groom her shiny fur.

-47-

I take a quick glance outside. Our leader, Dawnstar, is on the high rock. The deputy, Snaketooth, is talking to her. A few elders and warriors are around the freshkill pile. I feel excitement rush through me.

-48-

"Mom! The Clan is outside! We must go now!" I find myself wailing. Mom finishes grooming Beetlekit, and nods. "I'll take you outside." She pads out of the den with a slow pace, me and my littermates following her. "I'm so nervous," Leafkit murmurs to me. He's probably *too* scared to admit that to Beetlekit. I give a small smile. "It's fine! You'll be alright!" I murmur back to him. I really like Leafkit, and I hope we will always be this close. We both didn't like Beetlekit.

-49-

I look up at the highrock. Dawnstar is staring at *me*, not the other kits. I feel confusion, but I quickly walk it off.

/50/

"All cats old enough to swim and catch their own prey, gather beneath the highrock for a Clan meeting."

/51/

I hold my breath as I see cats run out of dens. A knot is in my stomach. I start to get nervous. I glance at Beetlekit. She looks nervous too. *She's a cat, too, stupid. She has feelings.* I remind myself.

/52/

"Toady, we have three new apprentices for WillowClan." Dawnstar looks at me first. "Silverkit. Step forward." I step forward, but trip on mud. I skid to the side, but a stay balanced. A few cats laugh or purr with amusement. I frown. "Silverkit, you will be mentored by Clearleaf." I narrow my eyes. Mom gasps. "What? You can't make my kit a medicine cat! She wants to be a warrior! She hates the smell of herbs!" She yowls. I run to Mom, staying underneath her. *I'm not moving until I become a warrior's apprentice.* "Well, Clearleaf thinks that Silverkit is right for the job." Dawnstar mews. Mom hisses, "she shouldn't be *forced* to do it, though! Make her a warrior's apprentice, please!"

/53/

Clearleaf frowns. "At least let her try it!" She yowls. I run out from Mom, and scream, "NO!" I stare at Clearleaf. "I don't want to be a medicine cat! I want to hunt, fight, and protect my Clan!" I wail.

/54/

Clearleaf looks wistfully at me. "Fine." She mews, turning around and stalking back into her den. *Why are they so serious about this?* Dawnstar looks really worried. "O-okay, then your mentor will be Windstream. Windstream, you are a brave and agile warrior. I think it's time for your first apprentice.""

/55/

I pad over to Windstream, smiling.

/56/

We touch noses.

/57 /

"I'll teach you *all* I know," Windstream murmurs to me.

/58/

I back away from Windstream.

/59/

"Beetlekit, Snakeblood will be your mentor. Snakeblood, you're a loyal deputy. Teach Beetlepaw all you know."

/60/

I grit my teeth. How come she gets the deputy?

/61/

"Leafkit, your mentor will be Mosspelt. Mosspelt, you are a great fisher and fighter, so teach Leafpaw all you know."

/62/

"Silverpaw! Beetlepaw! Leafpaw!" The Clan chants. I smile.

/63/

I look up at Windstream. "Lets explore the territory," she mews. I nod. "I'm so excited!"

/64/

I pad out of camp with Windstream. I scowl. My littermates were busy making their nests! I puff out my chest with pride. I hear birds, splashing, and... the rivers!